

- Open Positions: Academic Governance and Retirement Issues Officer
- Words from your President: Happy Summer!
- Adventures in PD: Linda Harwood and Leesa Dean
- Faculty Spotlight: Melody Diachun, Award-Winning Musician
- The Final Word: Cartoon, Summer Hiatus and Upcoming Events

**Your Monthly Newsletter from the SCFA**

# ON STREAM

## Goodbye Becca! Thanks For All Your Amazing Contributions!



Did you hear the news? Rebecca Jacobson is retiring! She has been involved in the SCFA for many of her 20 years at the college. She is retiring in order to focus on her growing coaching business. We will miss her, but we are also excited for her new projects.

Shannon Shah will be stepping into the VP Contract Negotiations role for the remainder of Rebecca's term which means the two positions she has held as Retirement Issues Officer (an executive position) and her spot on the Pension Advisory Committee will also need to be filled.

Please email [PresidentSCFA@selkirk.ca](mailto:PresidentSCFA@selkirk.ca) if you are willing to step into these roles. Traditionally, the Retirement Issues Officer also serves on the PAC since the roles have so much overlap.

## New Season, New Opportunities

Spring is a busy season for many SCFA members: it is the season of planning and for many an opportunity to engage in interesting PD activities. In this issue, we are happy to share a few testimonials of members who engaged in meaningful PD activities in Quebec and Nova Scotia.

How do you use your PD? Feel free to reach out to the President or your VP Membership Engagement for ideas on how you can use these funds to take courses, attend conferences, or engage in other activities related to your teaching/research.

As we move into summer and fall, we are looking to fill a few positions on the executive and on the standing committees:

- The Retirement Issues Officer position on the executive is now open. This is a great opportunity to participate in what is considered across the province to be our most important asset as college educators. The Retirement Issues Officer also attends the Pension Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings twice a year, once virtually and once in the Vancouver area. The Retirement Issues Officer connects with SCFA members to help them ask the right questions and look for the best retirement options. The current rep, Shannon Shah, considers this to be the best job in the SCFA and she is happy to support whoever steps into the role.
- There is also a position open on the Academic Governance Standing Committee. The meeting structure is similar to the PAC: representatives meet once online and once in person in the Vancouver area. Learn more here: <https://fpse.ca/committees/academic-governance-committee>

If you have been thinking about getting more involved in the SCFA, now is your chance! The work is rewarding and offers a unique opportunity to contribute to bettering our working conditions and ensuring we have a voice at the local and provincial level.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: HAPPY SUMMER!!



*In this “Happy Summer” edition, I want to start by wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating summer vacation. I am looking forward to enough time with my family that I am excited to return to work again in August and I hope you all have some fulfilling aspirations planned for your time off this summer 😊*

In these first few weeks of settling into my new role as SCFA President I have spent most of my time trying to learn as much as I can about our local, our members, and our place in FPSE. I have begun to set some priorities for my work for the coming year, but I would also like to hear from you about the issues that matter to you. Please reach out to me anytime to set up a time to chat about your work and the SCFA – I really do want to hear from you! Increasing the engagement of our membership is at the top of my priority list and Leesa Dean and I are brainstorming ways to make that happen. If you have any ideas of how we can better support you, please let us know. We are excited to be planning our 1<sup>st</sup> SCFA Labour Day BBQ as one such effort. It will be held on **September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00-2:00 at the Slocan Pools**. We will send more details in August, but hope to see lots of SCFA members and their families out to this event.

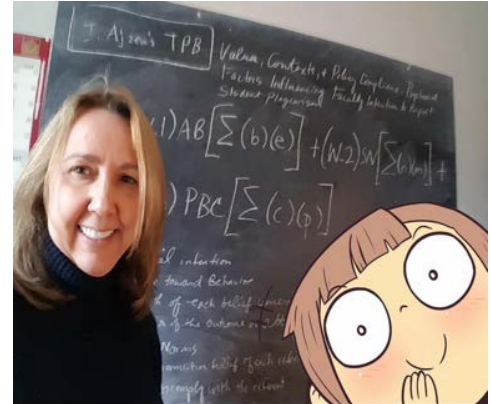
I also attended the President's Council Planning meetings in early June in Chilliwack. These meetings were hosted by Local 7 – University of the Fraser Valley and are held to plan the work of President's Council for the next year. Some of the major items discussed were the exit of VCC from FPSE and how to address some of the concerns their local raised that led to their exit from the Federation; local responses to Resolution 75 passed at the AGM regarding supporting students' rights to protest and divestment from companies profiting from military actions in Palestine; and the upcoming provincial election. If you are interested in learning more about the work being done at the FSPSE level, please reach out or start by checking out their website at [Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC \(fpse.ca\)](https://www.fpse.ca)

At our local level, there has been a recent call out for faculty on the Standing Committees of Education Council. The two committees looking for faculty reps are Curriculum Committee and the Program Quality Committee (formerly Admissions and Standards Committee). The work of these committees is very important and will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about educational governance at the college. I have served on several academic governance committees here at Selkirk and I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have faculty voices at these tables. If you are interested or have questions about this work, please let me know.

So, with the sun high in the sky and the promise of beach days ahead, I look forward to seeing you all in September!

In solidarity,  
Takaia

## ADVENTURES IN PD: LINDA HARWOOD ON PLAGIARISM, PREVENTION AND PEDAGOGY



Upon Dr. Sarah Elaine Eaton's strong and supportive urgings, on May 24, 2024, I had the honour of presenting my recent research at the *Joint International Conference on Ethics and Integrity in Academia: Plagiarism, Prevention, and Pedagogy*, held at the Université du Québec en Outaouais. Having recently completed my EdD in Higher Education from the University of Liverpool, I was excited to share my doctoral work on faculty's psychosocial response to student plagiarism with distinguished global scholars from the Partnership on University Plagiarism Prevention (PUPP), the European Network for Academic Integrity (ENAI), and the Canadian Symposium on Academic Integrity (CSAI). My mixed methods case study research revealed the need for institutions to prevent, mitigate, and manage cases of student plagiarism more effectively by:

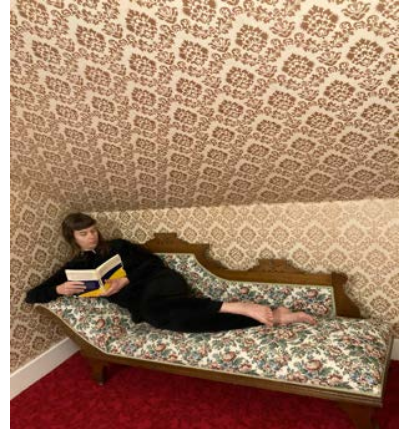
- emphasizing the critical importance of faculty engagement in tracking and reporting cases, ideally via a digital dashboard;
- leveraging Turnitin for not only pedagogical support and faculty workload needs, but also for equitable policy enforcement and procedural effectiveness;
- reviewing curriculum mapping to streamline where academic writing skills are being taught and/or reinforced; and,
- developing academic procedures based on faculty input from each School (or equivalent academic unit) to address specific course and/or program needs through customized appendices with typical types of plagiarism and how each should be addressed in each School, recognizing and respecting differences between disciplines, occupations, and professions.

The conference provided a valuable platform for sharing these strategies, and I thank the Professional Development Committee for their support, which made disseminating my research to this international audience possible. Next, I will be working on a 20-page scholarly paper for publication, as well as joining our Registrar, James Heath, to operationalize my findings into a new academic integrity policy with *streamlined* procedures here at Selkirk College.

Dr. Linda Harwood



## LEESA DEAN: IN THE HOME OF PULITZER PRIZE WINNING POET ELIZABETH BISHOP



A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to travel to Nova Scotia for an exciting, once in a lifetime opportunity: I was invited to be one of two keynote speakers for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia in Great Village, Nova Scotia.

Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979) was a Canadian/American poet and prose writer celebrated for her precise and detailed descriptions of the physical world and her ability to convey complex emotions with subtlety and restraint. In her lifetime, she won both a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award. Though born in Massachusetts, Bishop lived with her grandparents in Great Village, Nova Scotia as a child, after her mother was institutionalized. Her mother was taken from that very house in Great Village and Bishop never saw her again. Great Village was a place Bishop returned to every year until her grandparents passed away. Her childhood home was purchased 30 years ago by a group of folks passionate about preserving the poet's important connection with Nova Scotia and has been used as an artist residence and venue for community art events ever since.

I have long been a Bishop fan. In fact, my last publication, a novella-in-verse called *The Filling Station*, was based entirely on her work. The book was published in November 2022 by Gaspereau Press. I contacted the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia shortly after publication and we had been in communication for about a year before I was invited to speak at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.

In the past 18 months, I have presented on *The Filling Station* in 11 different communities, but this was the first time I was in a room with an audience of people who truly understand and are passionate about Elizabeth Bishop's work. The experience has only increased my interest and connection with Elizabeth Bishop. I was also able to stay at the house for a writing residency for the week leading up to the event. Though 105 years have passed since Bishop lived there, the furniture, the architecture, the falling down outbuildings and the old wallpaper are all reminiscent of the past. The house itself is full of tributes to the poet and the small desk pictured in the above photo actually belonged to Bishop herself. It was donated to the Society a few years ago. I enjoyed sitting at her desk, channelling the energy of her spirit and poetics as I finalized my keynote speech.

I am very grateful to Selkirk College for providing PD funds for opportunities like this. I cherished my time there and hope to return to Bishop House in the future for another writing residency.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING, PAID OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR STUDENTS

### **Strategic Planning Update:**

Leesa Dean has been attending the college's strategic planning sessions since the process began in January. You should have been receiving updates and invitations to consultation sessions via Selkirk's Communications emails, but if you want to keep up to date with where things are at in the process, you can also reach out to Leesa ([ldean@selkirk.ca](mailto:ldean@selkirk.ca)) or consult the most recent document (What We Heard) which summarizes the main findings of the public consultations that took place throughout the winter and spring. Here is the link to the What We Heard document:

<https://my.selkirk.ca/staff/our/news/strategic-plan-development-what-we-heard-.php>

### **Micro-internships for students through Co-op:**

Are you one of many SCFA members with a side business, or do you know someone who might have a short term project for a student? The Micro-Internship Program connects you with motivated students ready to apply their knowledge and skills. This initiative bridges academia and industry, offering practical experience and fostering growth.

**What is a Micro-Internship?** A Micro-Internship is a 60-80 hour project relevant to a student's area of study. These short-term, project-based internships provide practical experience and can lead to future employment opportunities, including Co-op placements.

**Funding and Stipend** Students completing an unpaid Micro-Internship receive a \$1800 stipend. This funding helps alleviate financial burdens, allowing students to focus on gaining valuable experience. Employers, students, and positions must meet eligibility criteria to qualify.

**Eligibility Criteria Students:** Must be registered in PSE institutions, full-time or part-time; Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or persons with refugee protection; legally entitled to work in Canada. International students are not eligible.

**Hosts:** Eligible hosts include private organizations and not-for-profits. Ineligible hosts include post-secondary institutions (except for entrepreneurial WIL), government bodies, and large financial sector employers.

Interested employers can [submit an application here](#). Please note, this is a new program, so filling vacancies may take time. Employers are pre-approved for funding but must wait for an eligible student to be placed in the role to guarantee funding.

For more information, contact [jadrain@selkirk.ca](mailto:jadrain@selkirk.ca). Don't miss this opportunity to engage fresh talent and drive success in your organization!

[Submitted by Jessica Adrain, SCFA Member]

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MELODY DIACHUN



SCFA member Melody Diachun taught in Selkirk's music program for ten years and is currently Chair for the School of Arts, but she is also a vocalist renowned for her innovative and soulful expression who recently won the prestigious Jazz Artist of the Year award at the 2023 Western Canadian Music Awards (WCMA). Awards and honours punctuate Melody's career, including her recent WCMA victory and previous wins such as the Outstanding Jazz Recording of the Year at the 2008 WCMA for her collaboration with Altered Laws on "Metaphora." Noteworthy nominations include a JUNO nomination for Contemporary Jazz Album of the Year in 2008, a National Jazz Awards nomination for Female Vocalist of the Year in 2009, and multiple nominations at the Kootenay Music Awards. Her musical journey began in Montreal and took her through Nova Scotia, New York City, Banff, and Vancouver before finding its poetic home in Nelson, British Columbia.

Melody's latest album, "Sumner's Tales: The Music Of Sting," showcases her artistic depth and versatility. In this album, she performs an immersive and bold exploration of Sting's catalogue, breathing new life into the iconic songwriter's melodies. "Sumner's Tales" also features David Restivo on piano, Michael Occhipinti on guitar, guitar loops, and ambient effects, Tony Ferraro on drums, and Melody's husband and co-producer Doug Stephenson on acoustic bass. Together, they uncover new layers of depth and meaning through inspired arrangements, soundscapes, and grooves that range from lush to bombastic. The album was recorded live-off-the-floor in Vancouver's Monarch Studios and mixed by Doug Stephenson, with two songs mixed by Grammy Award-winning producer Greg Wells.

Melody's impressive musical prowess extends beyond her recent triumphs. Her 2018 release, "Get Back to the Groove," peaked at #9 on iHeart's National Jazz Charts. This collection of five bluesy songs showcases Melody's talent and her ability to effortlessly traverse between her own compositions and those of others. Raul da Gama of Toronto Music Report aptly describes Melody as laying out the case for her "formidable and alluring talent."

Melody's artistry has drawn praise from industry insiders and critics alike. John Devenish of Toronto's JAZZ.FM91 describes her palette as "richly deep," reflecting her love for music. Raul da Gama affirms that "she is—and will always be—a force to reckon with in contemporary vocal music."

When asked what the recent award meant to her, Melody replied, "receiving the WCMA Jazz Artist of the Year award for this album has been a deeply meaningful experience for me. The recognition validates the dedication I have poured into my music and highlights the incredible support system surrounding me. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to my Selkirk College family. It is a gift to feel supported by my colleagues, students, and the college community. I do not take this for granted."

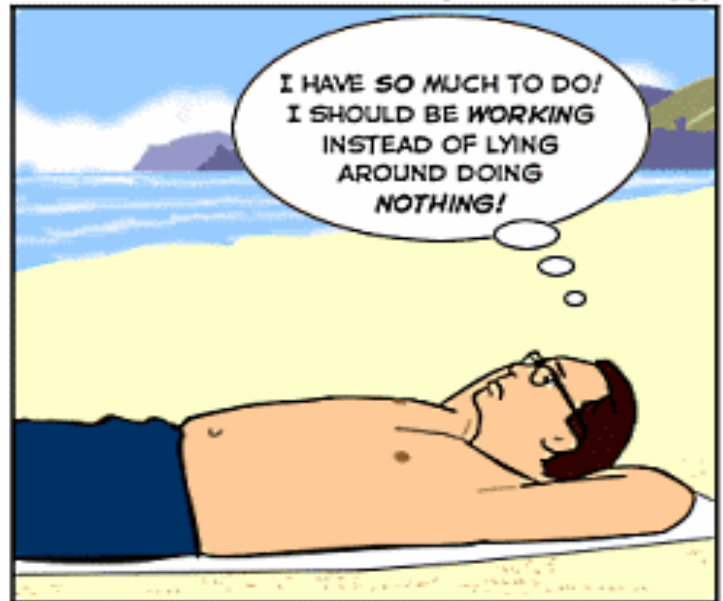
As for the next musical project? Melody says she needs to find time in her busy chair schedule for daydreaming and walking. For her, this leads to new songs. Learn more at: [melodydiachun.com](http://melodydiachun.com)

# THE FINAL WORD: SUMMER HIATUS AND LABOUR DAY PICNIC

The Joy of Tech™



by Nitrozac & Snaggy



©2007 Geek Culture  
joyoftech.com

Good weather guilt / work guilt vicious cycle.

## UPCOMING SCFA EVENTS:

- **Labour Day Barbecue/Picnic!** This event will take place on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> FROM 12-2 PM at Slocan Pools, centrally located between Nelson and Castlegar. More details will be given closer to the event but save the date! This barbecue/picnic will be for SCFA members and their families.
- Note: **Lunch Club** will be a monthly occurrence moving forward. We are currently evaluating the best day of the week for this casual gathering based on numerous event conflicts last year with the Thursday schedule.

## REMINDERS:

- On Stream will be **going on hiatus for July** but you can pitch your ideas or send member news to Leesa Dean (Idean@selkirk.ca) for the August edition anytime. Tell us about a current project you're working on, recent PD, advocate for workplace changes, or anything else that might be of interest to members.

**ON STREAM WILL BE BACK AT THE END OF AUGUST!  
ENJOY YOUR TIME IN THE SUN!**